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SPECIAL DESIGNEES

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TO: IMMEDIATE

HANDLE VIA TALENT-KEYHOLE CHANNELS ONLY

DELIVER TO

HEREWITH

- 1. AMBASSADOR JOHNSON REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF HIS
 WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AT THIS MURNING'S MEMBERS MEETING. AS
 WELL AS THOSE OF THE VP MEETINGS WHICH HE AND GENERAL ROWNY
 ATTENDED. THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON THE VP
 MEETINGS, WERE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR IN SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT TO THOSE
 PROVIDED US BY BASED ON DUCKETT'S DEBRIEF. IT WAS
 CLEAR, FROM GENERAL ROWNY'S REMARKS ABOUT THE VP MEETINGS.
 THAT JCS IS UNHAPPY ABOUT THEIR OUTCOME REGARDING THE BACKFIRE
 ISSUE AND PLAN TO MAINTAIN A HARDLINE POSITION ON IT.
- 2. AS YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW, THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE TO THE SOVIETS A RECESS LASTING FROM THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER UNTIL MONDAY, 12 JANUARY. LAST PLENARY, AND POSSIBLY DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, WOULD BE ON WEDNESDAY,

SECRET

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SPECIAL DESIGNEES

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17 DECEMBER. HE IS AT THIS MOMENT MAKING THE PROPOSAL TO SEMENOV, BUT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE FORMAL RESPONSE FOR A WEEK OR SO. GENERAL ROWNY IS ARRANGING FOR AIRCRAFT TO FLY DELEGATION AND STAFF HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. E2, IMPDET.